

County General Purpose Recipient, Major Donor and Independent Expenditure Committees

Questions and Answers

1. *If a major donor/independent expenditure committee filed a statement by July 31 covering the first six months of the year and makes no other contributions or independent expenditures during the second six months of the year, must it file a semi-annual statement by January 31?*

A: No.

2. *Last year, a major donor contributed to candidates running in state elections. This year, the major donor is making contributions to candidates in a single county. Where are the major donor statements filed this year?*

A: A major donor committee terminates at the end of each calendar year. A county major donor committee files with the elections official of the county, regardless of where reports were filed in a prior year.

3. *Must a county committee that contributes \$5,000 to a city candidate or city ballot measure committee file preelection statements in connection with the city election?*

A: No. County committees do not file preelection reports in connection with city elections. However, a general purpose recipient committee may be required to file a Supplemental Pre-Election Report (Form 495) if contributions totaling \$10,000 or more are made in connection with an election held in 2009.

4. *Must a Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report (Form 465) be filed if an independent expenditure supports or opposes multiple candidates?*

A: Yes, but only if \$1,000 or more was expended to support or oppose each candidate in the communication. A separate Form 465 must be filed for each candidate.

5. *Must a county committee that makes a late contribution to a city candidate file a late contribution report with the city filing officer?*

A: No. The late contribution report is required to be filed in the same locations that the county committee files its regular campaign statements.

6. *If an individual or business entity becomes a major donor or independent expenditure committee during the late reporting period (16 days before an election), when are reports required to be filed?*

A: A contribution or independent expenditure made during the late reporting period may trigger both qualification as a committee and the late reporting requirement. For example, the Smith Corporation contributes \$10,000 to a ballot measure committee 10 days before the election in which the measure is on the ballot. The corporation must file a late contribution report within 24 hours and a Major Donor/Independent Expenditure Committee Campaign Statement (Form 461) on the next semi-annual filing deadline.

7. *Must a state major donor/independent expenditure committee that makes a late contribution or a late independent expenditure in connection with a local election file a report with the local filing officer?*

A: The late contribution report is filed in the same locations that the major donor/independent expenditure committee files its regular campaign statements. Late independent expenditure reports are filed in the local jurisdiction.

8. *Must a state or county major donor/independent expenditure committee that contributes to a city candidate file preelection statements in connection with the city election?*

A: No. State and county major donor/independent expenditure committees do not file regular preelection statements (Form 461) regardless of their activity at the local level. However, depending on the amount and timing of independent expenditures made to support or oppose a local candidate or ballot measure, the Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report (Form 465) may be triggered on a local preelection filing deadline.